

Remarks:

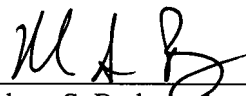
The status identifier of claim 16 has been changed to "Currently Amended."

As noted in the original submission filed December 27, 2004, claims 1-13, 15, and 17-33 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to comply with U.S. practice. Claims 34 to 36 have been added to encompass material deleted from claims 18, 22 and 31. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants separately note that all excess claim fees were paid on the date of submission of the original amendment. A copy of the transmittal sheet, check, and postcard acknowledging receipt of the same are enclosed herewith.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments contained herein.

Respectfully submitted,
RAINER HILLENBRAND, *et al.*

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